

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information providing apparatus comprising:
reception means for receiving transmission
information to a user;
- 5 decision means for deciding, on the basis of user
information of the user, a destination of the
transmission information received by said reception
means;
- designating means for designating conversion such
10 that data contained in the transmission information
matches a format of the destination; and
providing means for providing to the destination
data whose format is converted by the designation of
said designation means.
- 15 2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
the apparatus further comprises division means
for dividing the data contained in the transmission
information in accordance with types of contents of the
data,
- 20 said designation means designates the data
divided by said division means so as to match the
format of the destination, and
said providing means integrates the data whose
formats are converted on the basis of the designation
25 of said designation means and provides the integrated
data to the destination.
3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the

transmission information is electronic mail, and the data divided in accordance with the types are attached files contained in the electronic mail.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1, further
- 5 comprising user information retention means for retaining user information including designation of a destination of the transmission information for each user.
5. The apparatus according to claim 4, further
- 10 comprising setting means for setting the user information.
6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said designation means selects a conversion module on the basis of a data format of the data contained in the
- 15 transmission information and a data format of the destination and makes the selected conversion module convert the data.
7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said providing means integrates the converted data in
- 20 accordance with a data order of the transmission information.
8. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein when the destination is a World Wide Web information providing apparatus, said conversion module converts
- 25 image data contained in the transmission information into JPEG data and converts wordprocessor document data into HTML format data.

inhibit charge, inhibiting conversion which accrues charge.

14. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus further comprises acquisition means for acquiring a capacity of the destination decided by said decision means, and

said designation means designates to convert the transmission information into a format matching an output capacity of the destination.

10 15. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the apparatus further comprises apparatus type information retention means for retaining apparatus type information representing a capacity of each apparatus type for apparatuses serving as destinations, and

said acquisition means acquires a capacity of the destination on the basis of the registration contents of said apparatus type retention means.

16. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when the destination is a World Wide Web information providing apparatus, said providing means retains the output data accessible by a URL.

17. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when the destination is a portable terminal, said providing means transmits the output data to the portable terminal.

18. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when

formats are converted on the basis of the designation of said designation means and provides the integrated data to the destination.

21. An information providing method comprising:

5 the reception step of receiving transmission information to a user;

the decision step of deciding, on the basis of user information of the user, a destination of the transmission information received in the reception
10 step;

the designation step of designating conversion such that data contained in the transmission information matches a format of the destination; and

the providing step of providing to the
15 destination data whose format is converted by the designation in the designation step.

22. The method according to claim 21, wherein

the method further comprises the division step of dividing the data contained in the transmission
20 information in accordance with types of contents of the data,

in the designation step, the data divided by said division means is so designated as to match the format of the destination, and

25 in the providing step, the data whose formats are converted on the basis of the designation in the designation step are integrated, and the integrated

data is provided to the destination.

23. The method according to claim 21, wherein the transmission information is electronic mail, and the data divided in accordance with the types are attached
5 files contained in the electronic mail.

24. The method according to claim 21, wherein in the decision step, user information including designation of a destination of the transmission information is acquired from user information retention means for
10 retaining the user information including the designation of the destination of the transmission information for each user, and the destination of the transmission information is decided on the basis of the user information.

25. The method according to claim 24, further comprising the setting step of setting the user
15 information.

26. The method according to claim 21, wherein in the designation step, a conversion module is selected on
20 the basis of a data format of the data contained in the transmission information and a data format of the destination, and the selected conversion module is made to convert the data.

27. The method according to claim 21, wherein in the providing step, the converted data are integrated in
25 accordance with a data order of the transmission information.

28. The method according to claim 26, wherein when the destination is a World Wide Web information providing apparatus, the conversion module converts image data contained in the transmission information
5 into JPEG data and converts wordprocessor document data into HTML format data.

29. The method according to claim 26, wherein when the destination is a portable terminal, the conversion module converts image data contained in the
10 transmission information into a format displayable on the portable terminal and converts wordprocessor document data into text string data representing a subject of the document.

30. The method according to claim 26, wherein when
15 the destination is a facsimile machine, the conversion module converts text data, image data, and wordprocessor document data contained in the transmission information into facsimile data by CCITT FAX encoding.

20 31. The method according to claim 30, wherein the method further comprises the cover page generation step of generating cover page data describing an address of a data destination, on the basis of the user information, and
25 in the providing step, the cover page data is attached to the facsimile data obtained in the conversion step to form the output data.

the destination is a portable terminal, in the providing step, the output data is transmitted to the portable terminal.

38. The method according to claim 21, wherein when
5 the destination is a facsimile machine, in the providing step, the output data is transmitted to the facsimile machine.

39. An information providing method comprising:
the user information retention step of retaining
10 user information including designation of a destination of transmission information for each user;
the reception step of receiving transmission information to a user;
the decision step of acquiring user information
15 of the user from the user information retention step and deciding the destination of the received transmission information on the basis of the user information;

- the conversion step of converting data contained
20 in the transmission information so as to match a format of the destination; and
the providing step of providing the format-converted data to the destination.

40. The method according to claim 39, wherein
25 the method further comprises the division step of dividing the data contained in the transmission information in accordance with types of contents of the

data,

in the designation step, the data divided by said division means is so designated as to match the format of the destination, and

5 in the providing means, the data whose formats are converted are integrated and the integrated data is provided to the destination.

41. A computer-readable storage medium which stores a control program for causing a computer to execute an
10 information providing method comprising:

the reception step of receiving transmission information to a user;

the decision step of deciding, on the basis of user information of the user, a destination of the
15 transmission information received in the reception step;

the designation step of designating conversion such that data contained in the transmission information matches a format of the destination; and

20 the providing step of providing to the destination data whose format is converted by the designation in the designation step.

42. A computer-readable storage medium which stores a control program for causing a computer to execute an
25 information providing method comprising:

the user information retention step of retaining user information including designation of a destination

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of transmission information for each user;

the reception step of receiving transmission information to a user;

the decision step of acquiring user information
5 of the user from the user information retention step
and deciding the destination of the received
transmission information on the basis of the user
information;

the conversion step of converting data contained
10 in the transmission information so as to match a format
of the destination; and

the providing step of providing the
format-converted data to the destination.